Organized Crime Hearing Plans Hailed by Trapolin

A proposed open hearing by the City Council on organized crime in New Orleans is a step forward in ridding the city of lawless elements, Ivor A. Trapolin, chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Crime and Delinquency, said Tuesday.

Trapolin said the hearng would focus attention on a serious problem and make the citizens of New Orleans "more aware" of the support needed by law enforcement authorities to clamp down on organized crime here.

The New Orleans attorney said the hearing should probe organized crime's involvement in seven areas: gambling, narcotics, prostitution, loan sharking, obscenity, influence on public officials and legitimate business.

In a letter sent to the City Council this week, Trapolin listed the names of several organizations and persons who, he said, could "shed considerable light" on organized crime's activity in New Orleans.

The list included:

Henry E. Peterson, deputy United States attorney general; Gen. David Wade, director of public safety in Louisiana; Owen Neff, former special attorney in charge of the organized crime division of the U.S. Justice Department in the New Orleans area; Louis LaCour, U.S. attorney in New Orleans.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff Alwynn J. Cronvich, who heads the Organized Crime Commission of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice; the Metropolitan Crime Commission; Supt. of Police Joseph I. Giarrusso; Sgt. David Kent and Sgt. Frederick O'Sullivan of the Intelligence Division of the New Orleans Police Department; Officer Irwin Magri of the police department; the records of the New Orleans Police Department which show studies of the criminal cases made on known local members of the criminal underworld and the outcome of each;

Clarence Giarrusso, head of the Nartotics Division of the police department; David Chandler, Life Magazine correspondent; Clarence Doucet, reporter for The Times-Picayune; author of a series on organized crime; Wallace A. Moll Jr., acting area supervisor of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the U. S. Treasury Department; Joseph W. Simon Jr., executive vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area;

Ralph Salerno, consultant to the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice and adviser to the National Council on Crime and Delinquency; Herbert G. Lawson and Dennis Farney, staff reporters of The Wall Street Journal, who wrote an article on racketeering here;

Dennis A. Barry II, former assistant district attorney here; Jay Maloney, director of Valencia, who reportedly knows of steps being taken by teen-agers to fight the use of narcotics among teenagers; Louis Gomez, an employe in the Chief Administrator's Office of City Hall, who allegedly had contact with Cosa Nostra chieftain Carlos Marcello;

Associate Justice Joe D. Sanders, of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who is also chairman of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice; Judge David H. MacHauer, a former assistant city attorney; Harry F. Connick, former U. S. attorney; the entire record of the Louisiana Legislature Committee hearings on the bankrupt Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corporation and information and records that have not been disclosed to the public;

William Gurvich, a private investigator; Richard L. Williams, owner and operator of the Bar Amusement Co., Metairie; Herbert J. Miller Jr., assistant attorney general; Dr. Eugene Usdin, a New Orleans physician who reported that marijuana and LSD are used at every high school in New Orleans; Dr. William Bloom and Dr. Chester Scrignar of the Tulane Medical School who reportedly have detailed information concerning narcotics in the city.

Trapolin said there were many more names that could be considered, but declared, "There is no reason to list all possible sources of information at this time."

The list was given to the council in response to a request last week by Council President John J. Petre, who asked Trapolin to provide detailed information to assist the council in developing appropriate action.

Petre said Trapolin also would have the opportunity to submit information at an open council meeting.

Trapolin said he was pleased that the council is "gathering additional information in preparation for an open hearing on organized crime in New Orleans."

Trapolin suggested that each member of the council obtain copies of and study the following documents—the President's Commission's Task Force Report on Organized Crime; the Report on Organized Crime by Sen. John McClellan, dated March 11, 1969; and President Nixon's address to Congress concerning La Cosa Nostra ac-

tivity dated April 23, 1969.

The attorney also said that, as far as he was concerned, the work of the mayor's advisory commission is over, and it is now up to the mayor and the City Council to follow through on the commission's report and recommendations.

Trapolin said some progress has apparently been made since the April issuance of the commission's report. He cited, for example, the establishment by Gen. Wade of a special division of the State Police in New Orleans to fight organized crime.

He also said an open hearing by the council would be helpful because it would spotlight the existence of organized crime here and move the public to back up with adequate funds the means by which organized crime can be combatted. He emphasized that the means would be through properly financed law enforcement agencies.

Trapolin said he plans to meet with Mayor Victor H. Schiro Monday morning to discuss the crime commission's work.